



ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
420 West State Street
Rockford, Illinois 61101-1288
815-966-2900

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHET EPPERSON
CHIEF OF POLICE

ARREST RELEASE

DATE & TIME **01/21/14 2:42 PM**

Bureau: **Field Services Bureau**

Authorized Supervisor: **Lt. Darin Spades**

Phone: **815-987-5896**

Incident: **Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Street Gang Member
Arrest**

MESSAGE

On Monday, January 20, 2014 at approximately 12:20 am Rockford Police, District 2 Patrol Officers, who were working in the newly implemented Pilot Police District, were patrolling in the area of 16th Avenue and 9th Street, when they stopped a gold Toyota Corolla for a traffic violation. The vehicle contained three occupants. While talking with the driver of the vehicle, officers could smell the strong odor of cannabis emanating from the vehicle. Officers conducted a search of the vehicle and located .2 gross grams of cannabis inside a marijuana cigarette, as well as a black Kimber semi-automatic handgun under the front passenger seat. After running the firearm for steals, officers learned the gun was reported stolen in 2012 by the Rockton Police Department. The investigation continued and officers learned two of the occupants had

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ties to a Rockford area street gang. The driver of the vehicle, Brittany Morris, was issued a traffic citation for failure to dim headlights and the rear seat passenger, a 17 year old male, was arrested for possessing the firearm, along with several other offenses. He also provided a fictitious name to the investigating officers. The 17 year old male did not possess a valid Illinois Firearms Identification Card. He was a Juvenile, therefore he was lodged in Juvenile Detention.

Brittany Morris, 19 year old female, Rockford

Charge: Failure to Dim Headlights

17 year old male

Charge:

- Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon
- Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Street Gang Member
- Violation of the Firearm Owners Identification Act
- Obstructing Identification
- Theft (Possession of Stolen Property)

The third passenger was released uncharged.

The charges against Brittany Morris and the 17 year old male are accusations. They are presumed innocent until proven guilty by a court of law.

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